



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## Canberra

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### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 1987

**PHONE INQUIRIES** • *about these statistics*—contact Mr C. Chan on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any ABS State office.

- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 5402, 52 6007, 52 6627 or any ABS State office.

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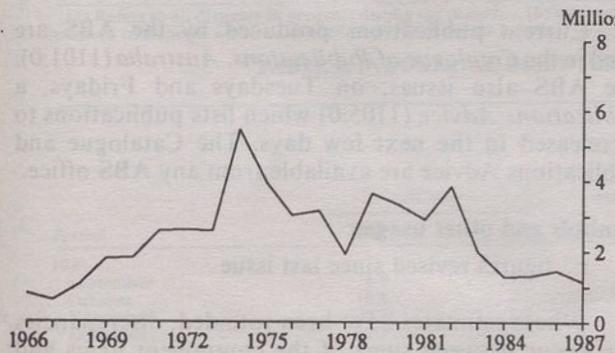
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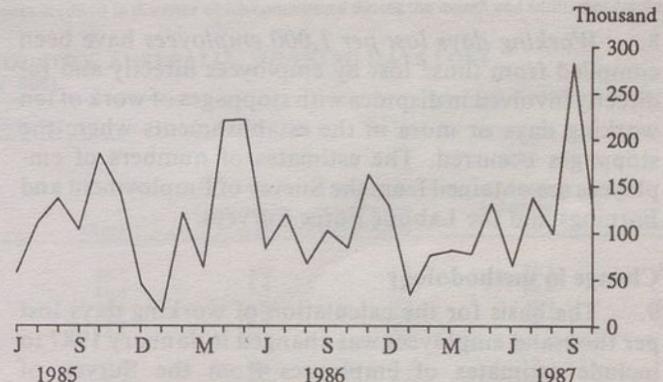
- *on VIATEL* — key \*656#.
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#### MAIN FEATURES WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA

Year ended June



June 1985 to October 1987



In October 1987, there were 114,000 working days lost by 60,800 employees in 150 disputes compared with 282,600 working days lost by 84,900 employees in 127 disputes in September 1987.

Of the 114,000 working days lost in October 1987, 59,700 were lost due to a number of disputes over National Wage Case second-tier claims, (mainly in the Transport and Public Administration industries).

Of the 150 disputes in October 1987, 23 had more than 1,000 working days lost.

In the 12 months ended October 1987, 1,390,500 working days were lost compared with 1,287,200 and 1,296,900 working days lost in the 12 months ended October 1986 and October 1985 respectively.

For the 12 months ended October 1987, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was highest in New South Wales (333) and lowest in Queensland (91).

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in *all* industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes *in progress* during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes

and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

##### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

*Trade Union Statistics, Australia 30 June 1986 (6323.0)*

*Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986 (6325.0)*

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly*

#### Unpublished statistics

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer print-out clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0)*. The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice (1105.0)* which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

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Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

W. McLENNAN  
Acting Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Period	N.S.W.	Commenced in period	Number of disputes		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
				Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)		
1984	September	151	151	171	53.9	64.1	102.7	
1985	October	177	177	195	70.6	74.6	84.2	
1986	November	162	162	185	49.0	63.3	162.2	
1987	December	99	99	124	31.9	49.0	128.8	
1986	January	91	91	95	12.8	15.1	34.2	
February	124	124	140	25.9	41.8	76.3		
March	148	148	166	54.8	63.6	81.5		
April	117	117	138	62.3	66.3	77.6		
May	126	126	146	80.3	106.7	131.5		
June	126	126	145	35.8	41.4	65.2		
July	117	117	135	49.7	51.5	137.8		
August	109	109	122	39.5	52.1	98.8		
September	114	114	127	60.3	84.9	282.6		
October	137	137	150	57.0	60.8	114.0		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
October 1985	1,865		1,887	625.2		630.9		1,296.9
1986	1,699		1,721	674.3		678.5		1,287.2
1987	1,470		1,493	559.2		573.5		1,390.5
December 1984	1,958		1,965	551.1		560.3		1,307.4
April 1985	1,830		1,845	552.6		570.5		1,256.2
May 1986	1,680		1,687	673.9		691.7		1,390.7

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)		
	Coal	Other								
1986										
September	6.8	11.6	11.8	48.1	7.0	1.1	16.3	102.7		
October	18.8	2.7	19.1	18.4	3.2	1.7	20.4	84.2		
November	20.1	8.3	19.4	25.5	10.0	0.8	78.2	162.2		
December	12.7	11.5	4.5	13.7	8.7	1.1	76.7	128.8		
1987										
January	1.0	13.5	3.8	2.7	6.8	3.1	3.3	34.2		
February	30.8	2.4	5.4	17.5	8.0	2.2	10.0	76.3		
March	6.7	4.0	20.8	12.2	26.2	5.1	6.5	81.5		
April	15.2	3.7	27.3	10.2	7.9	5.9	7.5	77.6		
May	30.1	1.8	39.5	25.7	19.5	5.7	9.1	131.5		
June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	3.0	7.7	65.5		
July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	2.2	8.4	137.8		
August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	23.7	98.8		
September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6		
October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	21.5	114.0		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
October 1985	241.2	81.6	131.4	196.9	171.0	150.7	324.1	1,296.9		
1986	354.9	195.6	172.6	184.0	112.6	118.2	149.4	1,287.2		
1987	290.7	73.4	207.0	179.6	214.7	63.7	361.4	1,390.5		
December 1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4		
1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2		
1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7		

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

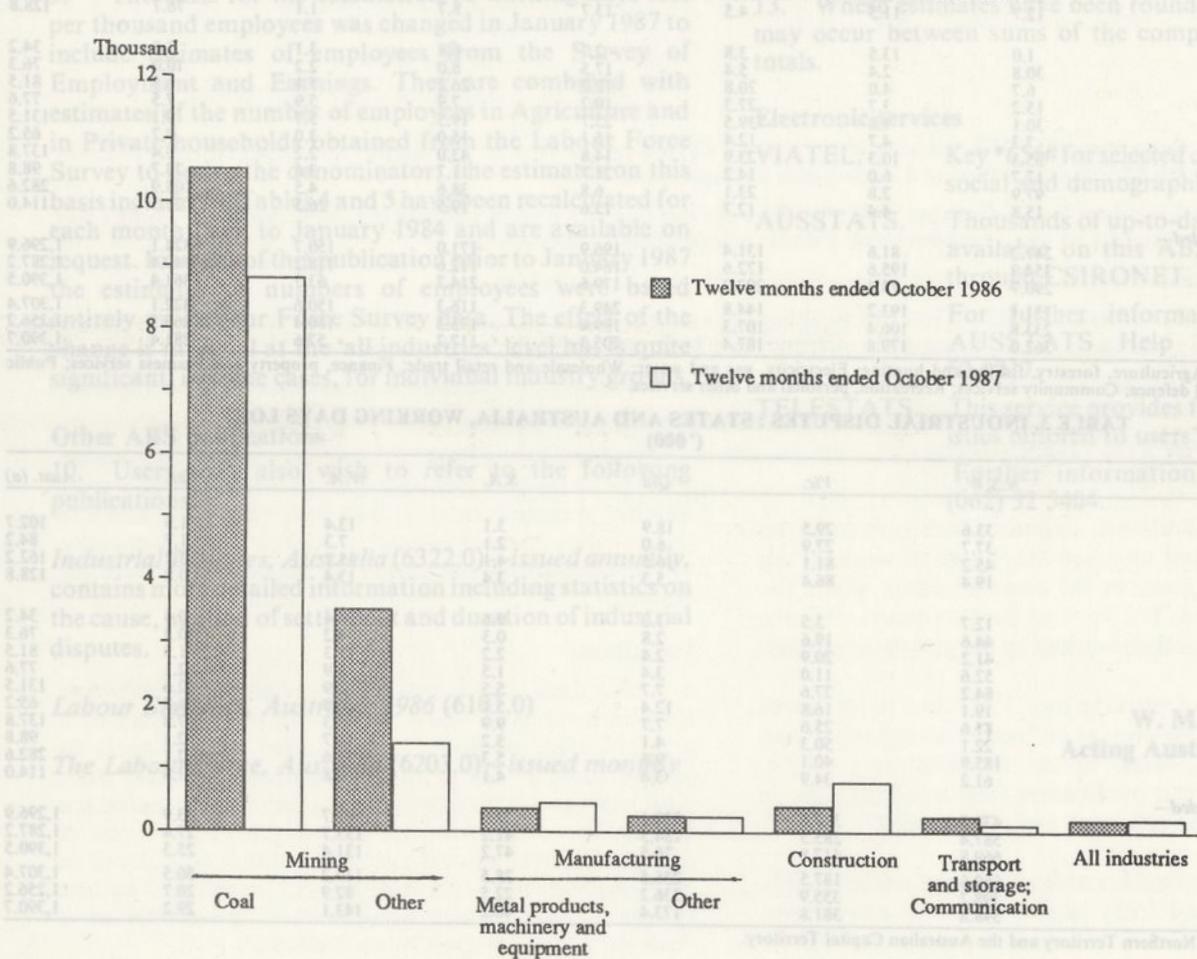
Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1986							
September	33.6	29.5	18.9	3.1	13.4	1.5	102.7
October	37.7	27.9	6.0	2.1	7.3	1.7	84.2
November	45.2	81.1	16.5	4.1	11.1	3.2	162.2
December	19.4	86.4	5.3	3.4	13.4	0.8	128.8
1987							
January	12.7	3.5	1.3	0.6	14.4	0.4	34.2
February	44.6	19.6	2.8	0.3	4.2	0.3	76.3
March	41.2	20.9	2.4	2.2	11.3	1.3	81.5
April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1	77.6
May	84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	2.6	131.5
June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2
July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	7.8	137.8
August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	98.8
September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	282.6
October	61.2	34.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	114.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
October 1985	478.7	319.6	330.1	27.0	91.7	23.9	1,296.9
1986	587.4	285.5	184.5	41.2	133.7	27.4	1,287.2
1987	669.8	417.8	76.5	47.2	131.4	25.3	1,390.5
December 1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)**

Period	Manufacturing								All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)		
	Coal	Other							
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248	
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228	
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242	
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
<i>1985</i>									
October	7,136	1,492	313	325	411	362	88	237	
<i>1986</i>									
September	10,479	3,553	371	302	466	336	59	243	
October	10,561	3,562	407	296	439	276	38	225	
November	10,950	3,143	441	312	437	143	55	228	
December	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242	
<i>1987</i>									
January	10,758	3,600	451	330	467	135	72	245	
February	9,168	3,567	456	353	477	131	70	237	
March	8,904	3,589	478	356	566	124	70	240	
April	4,881	3,238	526	353	580	127	67	215	
May	5,103	2,890	424	363	453	113	65	199	
June	5,128	2,415	432	365	476	98	65	195	
July	5,761	2,012	474	336	614	81	63	198	
August	6,194	1,515	490	351	641	84	68	204	
September	9,150	1,344	519	286	765	92	91	235	
October	8,837	1,436	498	281	834	149	90	238	

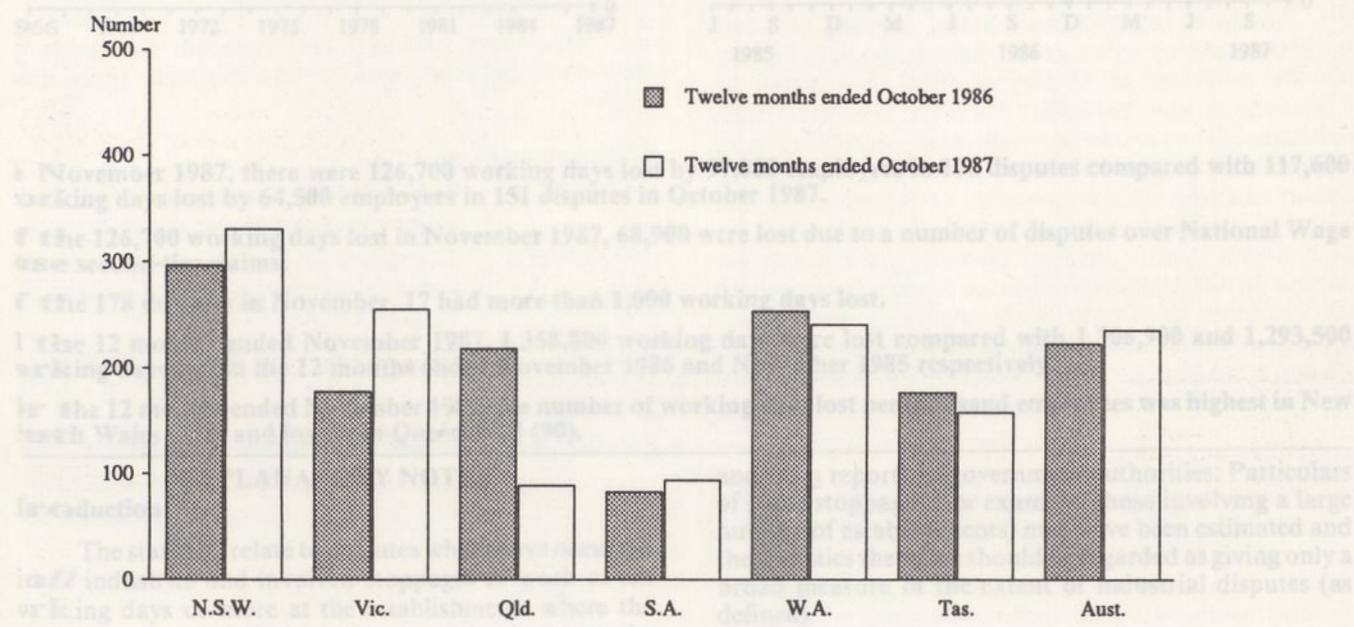
(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

**CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES**

**TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)**

<b>Period</b>	<b>N.S.W.</b>	<b>Vic.</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>S.A.</b>	<b>W.A.</b>	<b>Tas.</b>	<b>Aust.(b)</b>
1984	357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
<i>Twelve months ended —</i>							
1985	253	214	406	57	187	161	237
1986	303	239	223	87	257	176	243
October	299	180	221	85	256	179	225
November	306	191	206	92	253	194	228
December	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
<i>1987</i>							
January	307	239	208	95	295	186	245
February	288	247	187	92	291	176	237
March	290	252	186	91	303	179	240
April	255	246	121	91	271	190	215
May	251	220	114	61	241	161	199
June	232	222	125	70	249	118	195
July	242	222	112	83	238	154	198
August	247	247	108	89	206	164	204
September	322	253	97	93	252	169	235
October	333	258	91	96	243	160	238

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES**

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Figures shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress occurring in the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics on industrial disputes are compiled mainly from information supplied by employers (both private and public) concerning individual disputes.

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4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A single demand or grievance may be considered to be a single dispute. An *employer* is an entity (a person or organisation) which it is counted as a

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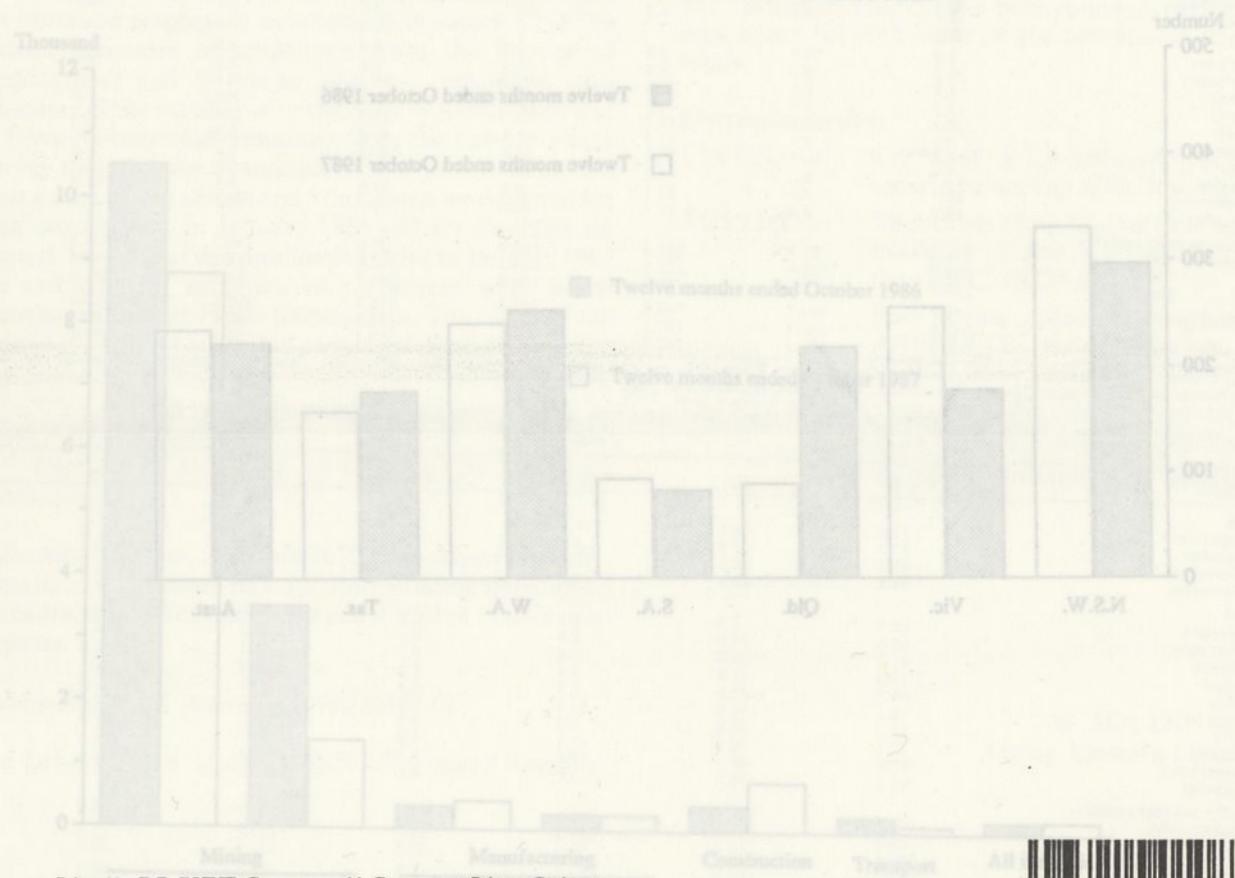
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TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BY INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

Period	Year	Year	Manufacturing			S.E.	S.E.	S.E.	W.R.		All Industries (000)	
			B.C.S. S.A.S.	T.S.	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	S.E.	S.E.	S.E.	S.E.		
1984	880	880	280	280	280	363	416	303	372	91	184	
1985	881	881	281	281	281	255	312	280	282	71	188	
1986 T.S.	181	181	10,773	10,781	3,328	72	445	804	135	72	186	
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>												
1985 E.S.	182	182				78	273	183	203	303	189	
October	183	183	7,136	7,136	1,492	28	313	155	323	295	289	
November	184	184				29	308	181	206	38	289	
December	185	185				29	308	181	206	35	289	
1986 E.S.	186	186				29	308	181	206	35	289	
September	187	187	10,479	10,479	3,533	371	302	466	336	59	243	
October	188	188	10,561	10,561	3,562	407	296	439	376	58	223	
November	189	189	10,950	10,950	3,143	441	312	437	302	55	223	
December	190	190	10,773	10,773	3,328	29	445	803	328	72	261	
T.S.	191	191				29	308	181	206	35	289	
1987 O.S.	192	192				195	29	308	181	303	245	
January	193	193	10,758	10,758	3,609	19	451	151	330	405	237	
February	194	194	9,168	9,168	3,587	19	456	111	353	405	237	
March	195	195	8,904	8,904	3,589	07	478	152	356	303	223	
April	196	196	4,881	4,881	3,238	18	526	113	353	303	223	
May	197	197	5,103	5,103	2,990	18	424	801	363	61	181	
June	198	198	5,128	5,128	2,415	18	432	165	376	63	181	
July	199	199	5,761	5,761	2,012	18	474	12	376	63	181	
August	200	200	6,194	6,194	1,513	29	490	19	351	41	181	
September	201	201	7,235	7,235	1,547	29	517	19	351	41	181	
October	202	202	8,837	8,837	1,547	29	517	19	351	41	181	

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas, water supply; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services, Recreation, personal and other services.

## CHART 4. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES



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